

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph 28 as follows:

[0028] The Figure shows a confocal scanning microscope, depicted merely schematically, that has an optically active component 1. Optically active component 1 deflects a portion of light beam 2 of light source 3 onto a dichroic beam splitter 4. Light that is not deflected by active optical component 1 toward dichroic beam splitter 4 is absorbed by beam trap 5. The light reflected from dichroic beam splitter 4 is deflected with the aid of scanning device 6 and is sent via microscope optical system 7 to specimen 8. The light returning from specimen 8 passes in the opposite direction through microscope optical system 7 and scanning device 6, and passes through dichroic beam splitter 4 toward detector 9. The Figure also illustrates that the present invention may be provided with temperature sensor 14 and control element 15 proximate the optically active component, if desired. Control element 15 accepts a reading of the temperature sensor and drives light source 3 and/or the frequency of drive unit 11 accordingly.